PoWs in Pakistan's Aatk Kila

953. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of Indian Army personnel are still lodged in Pakistan's Aatk Kila as PoWs; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) As per available information, 54 Indian Prisoners of War are believed to be in Pakistan's custody.

Government, through diplomatic channels, have been consistently taking up the matter with Pakistan. The issue was also raised during the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan held in New Delhi on June 27-28, 2004.

Prisoners released by India and Pakistan

954. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prisoners released by India and Pakistan during the last one year;

(b) the number of Indian and Pakistani prisoners in jails as per the information available with Government;

(c) whether any counsellor services are being provided to the prisoners and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of Pakistani prisoners facing trial in various courts of the country, and whether any special courts have been set up for speedy trials, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) As per available information, since 1st January, 2003 till date, India released 30 Pakistani civilian prisoners and 93 fishermen, and Pakistan released 38 Indian civilian prisoners, and 623 Indian fishermen.

(b) A large number of Indian prisoners, including 930 civilians, 407